HEADLINES AND FOOTNOTES THE Military Monlighting — Some of the military's most skilled translators have been dragooned by the top brass at Ft. Meade's First Army Intelligence Headquarters for use as messenger boys. GIs with linguisite excellence in Vietnamese, Russian, Swahili, Chinese and other tongues are so bored with the daily tedium that they have turned to moonlighting for commercial translators. Incredibly, the commercial translators are under contract to the Army to do the same work that the GI specialists were trained for. Thus the taxpayers have paid to train the GI so their talents can be used by defense contractors.

Polish and Italian ethnic groups may have trouble deciding whose day will be celebrated on October 11. In July, President Nixon designated October 11 as "General Pulaski's Memorial Day" to honor the famous Pole who died for American independence. Two months later, the President designated the second Monday in October, which also happens to fall on October 11, as Columbus Day. In July, he decreed that flags would fly from government buildings on October 11 for Pulaski. In September, he said the flags would be out for Columbus.

LEOPARD SPOTS — TV host Dick Cavett is about to get one of the most exotic expense accounts in show biz history. One of his guests last week, zoo investigator Sue Pressman, brought along a 10-pound leopard cub named Felix. After the show, she left the cub in her hotel room for a few minutes. She returned to find Felix using her open suitcase as a sand box. Two evening dresses, street clothes and the suitcase were stained. Felix is now safely back in his zoo in Massachusetts, and Mrs. Pressman is working up an expense account for Cavett. One entry reads: "Sanitary facilities on leopard cub."

B.S. BUTTONS — Sen. Fred Harris, D-Okla., has ordered a batch of campaign buttons with his unofficial presidential slogan "No More B.... S....!" The slightly scatological, if emphatic, slogan has brought titters from the ladies but applause from the men who are fed up with official lying, phony promises and misleading statements.